

"The corms, which seem to be usually only a few ounces in weight, are edible when cooked. They have a yellow interior, surrounded by a layer about three-sixteenths of an inch thick, of translucent white flesh; this is acrid, and requires longer cooking than the inner part to make it edible. The corms of this yautia should make a satisfactory starchy food in regions where the plant can be grown. The cormels are diminutive at first and appear to grow slowly." (*R. A. Young.*)

47537. TRIGONELLA FOENUM-GRÆCUM L. Fabaceæ. Fenugreek.

From Waukegan, Ill. Presented by Blatchford's Calf Meal Factory. Received June 5, 1919.

"*Egyptian fenugreek*, or *helba*, as it is called by the Arabs. This plant yields an important condiment; and its root system is so remarkably provided with tubercles that it is worthy of serious attention as a green-manure crop. The seeds are also of value for feeding purposes, and a large quantity of fodder is produced, which if cut before the seeds ripen is of excellent quality. The condition powders and condiment foods which are sold in England and America extensively and fed to ailing horses, cattle, and chickens, are mixtures of the fenugreek with other meals or grains. It is sometimes planted with berseem." (*David Fairchild.*)

47538 to 47547.

From Teheran, Persia. Presented by Col. J. N. Merrill, American legation. Received May 5, 1919.

47538. ALLIUM CEPA L. Liliaceæ.

Onion.

"Onion seed from Tarum, 25 miles west of Zenjan, in western Persia." (*Merrill.*)

The following grains are introduced for variety tests being carried on by specialists of the Department of Agriculture.

47539 to 47541. HORDEUM VULGARE PALLIDUM Seringe. Poaceæ. Barley.

47539. No. 1.

47541. No. 3.

47540. No. 2.

47542. SECALE CEREALE L. Poaceæ.

Rye.

47543 to 47547. TRITICUM AESTIVUM L. Poaceæ.

Wheat.

(*T. vulgare* Vill.)

47543. No. 1.

47546. No. 4.

47544. No. 2.

47547. No. 5.

47545. No. 3.

47548 to 47550.

From Richmond, Victoria, Australia. Presented by Mr. F. H. Baker. Received June 2, 1919. Quoted notes by Mr. Baker.

47548. BANKSIA MARGINATA Cav. Proteaceæ.

"She-oak. Grows along the coast."

This wood is porous, soft, spongy, and light. In the process of drying it twists and warps to a great extent, but when thoroughly seasoned it takes a fine polish and has a pleasing surface. It is used in cabinet-making and for indoor ornamental work. (Adapted from *Maiden, Useful Native Plants of Australia*, p. 383.)